

## **SITE OF FIRST SELF-SUSTAINING NUCLEAR REACTION**

South Ellis Avenue between East 56th and 57th Streets, Chicago

Scientists at the University of Chicago, working under the supervision of Enrico Fermi, achieved a controlled release of nuclear energy for the first time on December 2, 1942. This first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction took place in a converted squash court beneath the stands at the university's athletic field, and the group celebrated by drinking Chianti out of paper cups. The facility was demolished in 1958, and the spot is now marked by a bronze sculpture, *Nuclear Energy*, by Henry Moore.